

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 304037

NODIS
FOR SEITZ AND REINHARDT

FOL TEL SENT ACTION SECSTATE FROM GENEVA DTD 15 DEC 1976 QTE

S E C R E T GENEVA 9940

NODIS

FOR AMB SCHAUFLE FROM WISNER

DEPT PASS LONDON FOR SEITZ

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1
TAGS: PFOR RH UK
SUBJ: RHODESIA CONFERENCE: IVOR RICHARD'S DEC 14 BACKGROUNDER

1. I SPOKE WITH DAVID BRIGHTY, THE BRITISH SPOKESMAN,
ABOUT IVOR RICHARD'S DEC 14 BACKGROUNDER WITH THE GENEVA BASED
BRITISH CORRESPONDENTS. THE QUOTES FROM THE BACKGROUNDER
WHICH WERE CARRIED IN UPI WERE NOT AUTHORIZED. JOHN
CALCOTT, THE UPI CORRESPONDENT, ALSO REPRESENTS THE
DAILY EXPRESS IN GENEVA AND FOR THAT REASON WAS INVITED
TO THE SESSION.

2. I DREW BRIGHTY'S ATTENTION TO A NUMBER OF UNHELPFUL
STATEMENTS IN THE BACKGROUNDER AND POINTED OUT THAT

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I FOUND PARTICULARLY DIFFICULT THE STATEMENT WHICH READ

"ABOVE ALL THIS COMMISSIONER AS COMMANDER IN CHIEF WOULD HAVE THE FINAL SAY IN HOW THE ARMY AND SECURITY FORCES ARE USED." I TOLD BRIGHTY THAT REFERENCES OF THIS SORT GO BEYOND THE FIVE POINTS AND ANNEX C AND SINCE WE HAVE NOT AGREED WITH THE BRITISH WHAT APPROACH TO TAKE AND HAVE NOT HAD A CHANCE TO CONSULT PRETORIA AND SALISBURY, SPECIFIC REFERENCES OF THIS NATURE ARE DAMAGING.

3. BRIGHTY NOTED THAT THIS PARTICULAR QUOTE WAS TAKEN OUT OF CONTEXT. WHEN QUESTIONED ON WHAT A RESIDENT COMMISSIONER COULD DO, RICHARD REFERRED TO A NUMBER OF HYPOTHETICAL POSSIBILITIES, INCLUDING SUGGESTIONS MADE BY THE NATIONALIST DELEGATIONS. HE SAID IN HIS BACKGROUNDER THAT THE NATIONALISTS HAD PROPOSED A BRITISH SECURITY ROLE.

4. I ASKED BRIGHTY TO PASS ON TO IVOR RICHARD AS SOON AS POSSIBLE OUR HOPE THAT COMMENTS ABOUT THE NATURE OF A NEW PACKAGE BE STRICTLY LIMITED. BRIGHTY SAID HE UNDERSTOOD MY CONCERN AND WOULD COMMUNICATE MY THOUGHTS IMMEDIATELY. CATTO UNQTE KISSINGER

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